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OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY
VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH
DEDICATION OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FOR THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1985

It's a pleasure to be here this morning. It always gives me a great deal of pleasure to come out here. I have so many good memories of my days as DCI... so many friends in the agency... or who are by now alumni of the Agency. And I have such respect for surely one of the greatest DCIs of all, your current director, Bill Casey.

And something else. I have so much respect for the work that all of you are doing for our country... respect from my first hand experience here a decade ago... and respect because I see so much of your product or hear about it every day. And in so much of what you do, you produce some of the best work being done in the government today. You set the standard. You lead the way.

And so, as I say, it's a pleasure to come here.

Today is 26 years, almost to the day, since President Eisenhower laid the cornerstone for the main building.

It's been a turbulent quarter century for the Agency, as well as for the country. Challenges have arisen both abroad and at home. For a while the CIA -- together with others in national service whose jobs are to protect our liberties -- came under greater and more critical scrutiny than even our adversaries.

A principle objection of mine was that a lot of hill staffers came arrogantly charging out here showing no concern for classified material determined that they were ferreting out wrong-doing. And in the process what they did do was insult the patriotism and dedication of the entire intelligence community. It was insulting and uncalled for.

Another change in the last quarter century has been the expanding scope of the intelligence challenges you must address. Terrorism, theft of technology, narcotics trafficking, Third World debt, nuclear and chemical weapons proliferation... these are just some of the issues that weren't even on the radar screen, or were just faintly there, in the late '50s.

These new challenges require new kinds of analysis, and new and more searching application of both old and new disciplines. And, as I said, I've been impressed again and again that you are meeting these challenges and meeting them superbly.

So much has changed since the first cornerstone was laid. But there's much reason for satisfaction and for confidence in the future. For me that confidence comes most of all because one thing hasn't changed... and that's the truth of the words President Eisenhower spoke when he stood not far from here all those years ago.

He said: [In the world of intelligence] "Success cannot be advertised: failure cannot be explained. In the work of intelligence, heroes are undecorated and unsung, often even among their own fraternity. Their inspiration is rooted in patriotism -- their reward can be little except the conviction that they are performing a unique and indispensable service for their country, and the knowledge that America needs and appreciates their efforts. [And, he concluded,] the reputation of your organization for quality and excellence of performance is a proud one."

It was then. It is today. May each of you and this new building long serve the cause of America and of peace.

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